

# Mayflower Notes...



## *Mayflower Congregational Church*

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**Dr. Rick Martin**

**Pastor**

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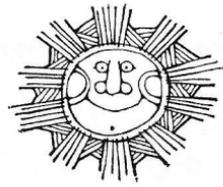
*Dates to remember in  
June & July..*

<u>June 3</u>	<i>All-Church picnic</i>
<u>June 14</u>	<i>No Trustees Meeting</i>
<u>June 17</u>	<i>Prudential Council - noon</i>
<u>June 17</u>	<i>Father's Day</i>
<u>June 24</u>	<i>Communion June/July</i>
<u>July 4</u>	<i>Independence Day</i>
<u>July 12</u>	<i>Trustee's Meeting 5 p.m.</i>
<u>July 15</u>	<i>Prudential Council - noon</i>
<u>July 29</u>	<i>Advent House Lunches</i>

**Head Usher**

Naida Kenyon





## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Summer is here! I love summer. A time of being warm, sunshine, fun in the sun, going to the lake, golf, fishing, gardening, hiking, boats and other water toys. As a pastor, I've noticed that attendance varies with the nice weather. But then, I also take most of my vacation time during the summer months. So much to do – so little time (in Michigan) to do it.

I've never thought everyone should be at church whenever the church doors were opened, although I was kind of raised that way. I think we should enjoy life as we have the opportunity, that God made life to enjoy. One of the hazards of attempting to enjoy as much summer as possible is also neglecting our relationship with God.

What happens on occasion: I'm skipping church/church activities to go have fun in the sun (nothing wrong with that), but I end up also skipping the Bible/prayer/fellowship with God. Neglecting our relationship with God is not a necessity in order to enjoying Michigan's summer. It is possible to skip church (once in a while) without skipping out on God also.

God is interested in our relationship with Him. Relationship comes from talking, listening, spending time together, and enjoying each other's presence. While our church life can be a major part of that, we can maintain our relationship with God from any location (thus Paul in prison) and under any circumstances. God has so designed it so that nothing can stop our relationship with him – except us.

Summer is here! Go and enjoy the warm sunshine and your favorite hobby. When you are in town, come and enjoy your church family. But whether you are at home, at the cottage, at the beach or on the golf course, remember God and enhance your relationship with Him.

Mark 12:28-31

***One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"***

## Lay Leader's Message

Today is May 17, 2012. It's a sunny day outside, and it promises to top out at 69 degrees. It looks like a perfect day for working in the flowerbeds! The coming months will feature plenty of sunshine and warmer temperatures, outdoor activities, and lots of visiting with family and friends. Make sure you use your sunscreen, wear head covering, and good sunglasses!

Oftentimes the things that occur in nature remind me of things that occur in scripture. Each time I see the sun during these coming months I will be reminded of Matthew 17:2, which recounts Jesus' trip with Peter, James and John up to a high mountain. "There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light."

Each time we see the sun during these fun days, let us be reminded of the state of Jesus that day, a state that reminds us of the purity, love and radiance that Jesus personified. As Christians, we are reminded that with each day we may be transfigured into something better than ourselves....a being that radiates the same love and warmth as Jesus. With the love of Christ in our hearts, we will serve as a bright beacon to everyone we see as we continue Christ's work her in the world.

Fred Lowe



## Music at Mayflower

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." Eccl: 3:1.

"**Turn! Turn! Turn!**" is a song adapted entirely from the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible (with the exception of the last line) and put to music by Pete Seeger in 1959. Seeger waited until 1962 to record his own version of it, releasing the song on his *The Bitter and the Sweet* album on Columbia Records



The song became an international hit in late 1965 when it was

covered by the American folk rock band The Byrds, reaching #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and #26 on the UK Singles Chart. Many biblical scholars believe that Ecclesiastes 1:1 implies King Solomon (born c. 1011 BC) as the book's author, but regardless of its precise origins, The Byrds' version of the song easily holds the record for the number 1 hit with the oldest lyrics.(1)

The lyrics are taken almost verbatim from the Book of Ecclesiastes, as found in the King James Version (1611) of the Bible (Ecclesiastes 3:1), though the sequence of the words was rearranged for the song. Ecclesiastes is traditionally credited to King Solomon.

- ❖ To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.
- ❖ A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, a time to reap that which is planted;
- ❖ A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- ❖ A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- ❖ A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- ❖ A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
- ❖ A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

- ❖ A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

The Biblical text posits there being a time and place for all things: laughter and sorrow, healing and killing, war and peace, and so on. The lines are open to myriad interpretations, but as a song they are commonly performed as a plea for world peace, with an emphasis on the closing line, "a time for peace, I swear it's not too late." This line and the title phrase "Turn! Turn! Turn!" are the only parts of the lyric written by Seeger himself.

*Taken from Wikipedia and also the King James Version of Ecclesiastes.*

Many, many thanks from your director, your pastor, and your congregation to the choir and bell choir members for their full season of service. Several members have served throughout family difficulties and pressing concerns. The fact that they serve so consistently does not mean that it is easy; they just make it look easy!

There are other soloists and special guests who helped us, and we want to thank them as well. All of their efforts contributed toward our special music ministry. We appreciate you very much. God wants our heart; he knows our loving hearts of service to Him and his World.

Chrisann

Of course, I have to tag on that there are many weeks of summer music in which to use our gifts. Please call, email, or call the office if you have a musical/dramatic idea. Hymn suggestions are also welcome. Thanks!



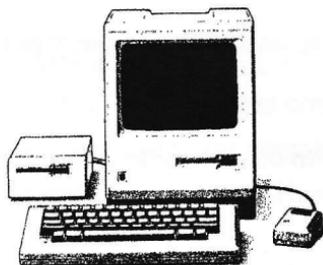
## Christian Education

Another school year draws to a close. This one is a sad one for me, as Alexis and Joe are moving to Texas, and I will miss them very much. I really enjoyed having them in class these past few years, and I am lucky to have been a part of their journey of faith.

The church picnic will be held on Sunday, June 3rd. Please bring a dish to pass and your own plate and silverware. We will provide the meat and the beverages. We are looking forward to having fun to close out the year!

Plans are underway for next year. Morgan and Maggie will continue their confirmation studies. I hope to have a projected end date for confirmation by the time September rolls around. More information will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your support as we continue to raise our children as a church.



Liz

Hi all,

This is the final newsletter for this season. As you can see, it contains information for June and July.

The deadline for the next newsletter August/September is August 15th.

If there are other items that you feel would be a worthwhile addition to the newsletter please let me know. Suggestions so far have been ushers, liturgists and the flower slots for each month.

Call me (646-8861) or contact the church office with suggestions.

Meredith Kennedy  
Editor